

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5144

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3437

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BEXP, SW  
SUBJECT: INCREASED CONTROL OVER DEFENSE EXCHANGES

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 2999 (B) STOCKHOLM 3218 (C) STATE 152259

1. AT THE TIME THE BASIC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED IN 1962, SWEDEN HAD BEEN CRITICIZED BY WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES FOR "LEANING TOO FAR TO THE WEST". AN OCCURRENCE IN POINT WAS THE REMARK MADE BY THE SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE AT THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO SWEDEN. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY RECORDS THE MINISTER QUESTIONED SWEDISH AUTHORITIES: "HOW CAN A NEUTRAL COUNTRY LIKE SWEDEN HAVE ALL OF THEIR SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES POINTING TO THE EAST?" PRESUMABLY, AT THAT TIME, IT WAS CONSIDERED PRUDENT TO CONFINE THE U.S. MILITARY ATTACHES IN STOCKHOLM TO LOW KEY CONTACTS WITH THE SWEDISH DEFENSE ORGANIZATION. IN PRACTICE, THEREFORE, SWEDISH OFFICIALS, EXERCISING THE OPTION PERMITTED BY THE BASIC AGREEMENT, QUIETLY ADOPTED A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE THAT EXCLUDED THE U.S. ATTACHES FROM DEA COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS AND DISCOUNTED THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.

2. TODAY, THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN SWEDEN IS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS IN THE EARLY 60'S. OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, U.S. MILITARY ATTACHES IN SWEDEN HAVE IN PRACTICE BECOME MORE AND MORE INVOLVED IN AUTHORIZED EXCHANGES OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON AN INFORMAL BASIS AS SUGGESTED BY SWEDISH OFFICIALS. IT IS EVIDENT, THEN, THAT THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE PROVISIONS  
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OF THE 1962 AGREEMENT IS NO LONGER QUITE VALID, AND THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY GOOD REASON FOR THE U.S. ATTACHES IN STOCKHOLM TO BE EXCLUDED FROM ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING, ALBEIT DISCREETLY, IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH SWEDEN.

3. MORE PERTINENT NOW TO THE ROLE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY STOCKHOLM IS THE GOAL OF MAINTAINING DESIRED SURVEILLANCE OVER FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AS WELL AS EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. WHEREAS THE BASIC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (DATA EXCHANGE) IS A BILATERAL DOCUMENT, THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEFENSE ATTACHE TO SWEDEN (FOREIGN MILITARY SALES) IS A UNILATERAL DEPT OF DEFENSE DOCUMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS DOCUMENT DESIGNATES THE DEFENSE ATTACHE AS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES IN COOPERATION WITH THE CHIEF OF MISSION, IN ACTUAL PRACTICE SWEDISH OFFICIALS HAVE FOLLOWED THE COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES STIPULATED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, THAT IS, DIRECTLY WITH THE SWEDISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON.

4. THE ROLE OF THE USDAO/EMBASSY WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF THE BASIC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WERE REWORDED TO INCLUDE U.S. ARMED FORCES ATTACHES IN THE SAME WAY SWEDISH ATTACHES ARE NOW CITED.

5. IF AMENDING THE BASIC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO EFFECT THIS WORD CHANGE IS NOT FEASIBLE, AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO INSURE THAT ALL U.S. PROJECT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES INCLUDED IN THE VARIOUS ANNEXES TO THE BASIC MEMORANDUM AS WELL AS THOSE INVOLVED IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES, BE DIRECTED TO CHANNEL ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO SWEDEN THROUGH THE USDAO FOR ONWARD RELEASE. THIS WOULD ENHANCE USDAO/EMBASSY STOCKHOLM'S POSTURE BY PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BEFORE THE FACT AND EFFECT FINAL RELEASE.

6. IN SUMMATION, WE PROPOSE THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY STOCKHOLM BE CRANKED INTO THE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS BY WHATEVER FORMAL DOCUMENT YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT BOTH PARTIES TO AN EXCHANGE OR MILITARY SALE COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF KEEPING THIS EMBASSY INFORMED.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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